

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REF: GENEVA 2252

WE FEEL THAT MODEL QUESTIONNAIRE WILL PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL SITUATION FOR BEEF AND VEAL. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

1. PART B. WE RECOMMEND THAT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DATA SHOULD

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BE ON BASIS OF PRODUCTION FROM SLAUGHTER OF ALL ANIMALS WITHIN

THE COUNTRY, I.E., INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION PLUS SLAUGHTER OF IMPORTED ANIMALS. THIS IS BEST MEASURE OF BEEF AND VEAL AVAILABILITY WITHIN A COUNTRY AND IS BEST FIGURE FOR COMPARISON WITH IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. WE FEEL THAT MEAT FROM EXPORTED ANIMALS SHOULD BE COUNTED AS PRODUCTION IN COUNTRY WHERE SLAUGHTERED. U.S. DATA DOES NOT COUNT EXPORTED ANIMALS AS BEEF AND VEAL PRODUCTION; THEREFORE, CURRENT U.S. DATA WOULD NOT BE COMPARABLE ALTHOUGH EXPORTS OF LIVE ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER ARE RELATIVELY SMALL PORTION OF TOTAL U.S. MARKETINGS.

2. PART C, TABLE C.1 AND C.4. U.S. DOES NOT ESTIMATE CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT OF LIVE CATTLE TRADE. DATA ARE IN NUMBER OF HEAD WITH SOME BREAKDOWN BY WEIGHT CLASS FOR IMPORTS. WE RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF LIVE TRADE IN SLAUGHTER CATTLE IN EUROPE, BUT FEEL THAT NUMBERS OF LIVE CATTLE TRADED ARE THE CRITICAL FIGURE FOR CONSTRUCTING CATTLE INVENTORY BALANCE SHEET WHICH IS PRIME INDICATION OF POTENTIAL PRODUCTION.

3. U.S. DELEGATE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT ONLY PROJECTIONS CURRENTLY PUBLISHED IN U.S. ARE COMBINED PRODUCTION OF BEEF AND VEAL, AND LIVE CATTLE PRICES FOR TWO QUARTERS IN ADVANCE, AND ANNUAL ESTIMATE OF AGGREGATE IMPORTS SUBJECT TO MEAT IMPORT LAW (PRIMARILY FRESH FROZEN BEEF). PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL QUARTERLY ESTIMATES CALLED FOR IN QUESTIONNAIRE POSES SOME PROBLEMS BUT WILL BE TAKEN UNDER CONSIDERATION. WE AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH INFORMATION EVEN IF ON A ROUGH BASIS WOULD BE USEFUL AND NECESSARY FOR INFORMATIVE DISCUSSION OF WORLD BEEF SITUATION.

4. PART D. WE RECOMMEND THAT PRICE TABLE BE BROKEN INTO TWO PARTS WITH INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR AT LEAST TWO QUALITIES OF BEEF, I.E., MANUFACTURING AND TABLE QUALITY. THIS CONFORMS WITH TWO BASIC PRODUCT USES AND WITH TRADE PRACTICES. KISSINGER

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